

Claims

[c1] A method of selecting and determining the product item description along with the product item's pricing information and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the photographic image of the product item from the web page of an online store that contains the listing of the said product item, for use in creating one or more user specific product item lists associated with one or more internet based universal product item registry accounts, the said method comprising of the sequence of the following steps :

(i) Using an internet browser program on a client device such as a personal computer connected to the internet, the user navigating to the web page of an online store and selecting a desired product item listing on the said web page with a mouse or a keyboard or such other input device.

(ii) The user activating the internet browser program's menu options list available after selecting the desired product item from the set of one or more product item listings on the web page.

[c2] The method of claim c1, further comprising the step of

providing a menu item option in the internet browser program's menu options list that is available after selecting a desired product item, the said menu item option providing the user with a choice to add the selected product item to the product item list associated with the said user's internet based universal product item registry account such as an online wish list or an online gift registry account.

[c3] The method of claim c2, further comprising the step of querying the said user for the registry account information such as the said user's account name and security password as registered with the registry service provider that is hosting the said user's universal product item registry and retrievably storing the user provided account information onto the said user's client device such as the personal computer.

[c4] A second method of selecting and extracting the product item description along with the product item's pricing information and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the photographic image of the product item from the web page of an online store that contains the listing of the said product item, for use in creating one or more user specific product item lists associated with one or more internet based universal product item registry accounts which can be used to provide services such as an

online gift registry or an online wish list service. Under this second method, the internet browser program is extended by adding a custom graphical button on the toolbar which contains a set of standard buttons for use in navigating the internet. A computer program associated with the said custom graphical button monitors the state of the button and determines pertinent product information whenever a product item is referenced by the said button. A product item is referenced by the said button when the user selects a product item on the web page of an online store and drags the selection using a mouse or such other input device and drops it over the said button. This action is typically known as "drag-and-drop" action in the computer terminology. This second method comprises of the sequence of following steps:

- (i) Using an internet browser program on a client device such as a personal computer connected to the internet, the user navigating to the web page of an online store and selecting a desired product item listing on the said web page with a mouse or such other input device.
- (ii) The user dragging the selection using the mouse or such other input device and dropping the selection over the said custom button provided on the toolbar of the internet browser program and thus creating a reference to the product item selection using the

custom button.

[c5] The method of claim c4, further comprising the step of querying the said user for the registry account information such as the said user's account name and security password as registered with the registry service provider that is hosting the said user's universal product item registry and retrievably storing the user provided account information onto the said user's client device such as the personal computer.

[c6] The methods of claims c3 and c5, based upon the user's selection of the said product item as described in the respective said claims further comprising the step of determining the product item description, selling price, brand name, manufacturer name, the URL of the online store's web page that contains the listing of the said selected product item, the URL of the product's photographic image and the URL of the online store selling the said selected product item, wherein the said determination is performed by parsing the web page of the online store to find the said required information items.

[c7] The method of claim c6, further comprising the step of querying the user for the quantity information to determine the number of pieces of the selected product item as desired by the user, the said querying performed by

using the computer graphical interface within the internet browser context to prompt the user to provide the necessary quantity information and to receive the required information from the user.

[c8] The method of claim c7, further comprising the step of displaying to the user the information items determined as described in claim c6 and allowing the user to edit or modify any of the said information items, the said display and modification of the said information items performed by using the computer graphical interface within the internet browser context.

[c9] The method of claim c8, further comprising the step of transmitting the product information items, determined as described in claim c8 and the quantity information determined as described in claim c7 and the said user's registry account information, determined as described in claims c3 and c5, to a server computer connected to one or more computer databases and hosted by the registry service provider.

[c10] The method of claim c9, wherein the received information at the said server computer consisting of the user's registry account information and said selected product item description information and the product quantity information, further comprising the steps of: the said

server computer using the received registry account information to determine and retrieve the user specific product item list from one or more computer databases; adding the received product item information to the said user specific product item list; and retrievably storing the updated product item list in one or more computer databases.

[c11] The methods of claims c3 and c5, based upon the user's selection of the said product item as described in the respective said claims, further comprising of an alternate method of determining the product item description, selling price, brand name, manufacturer name and the URL of the product's photographic image. The said method comprising of parsing the web page of the on-line store to determine the product identification number or such other unique product item identifier based upon the user's selection of the said product item.

[c12] The method of claim c11 , further comprising the step of opening an internet communication session from the user's client device to a server computer hosted by the registry service provider and transmitting the unique product item identifier determined as described in the said claim and the URL of the online store selling the said selected product item to the said server computer.

[c13] The method of claim c12, wherein the received information at the said server computer consisting of the product identification number or such other unique product identifier and the URL of the online store selling the said selected product item, further comprising the steps of: the said server computer using the received product identification number or such other unique product identifier and the URL of the online store selling the said selected product item to access and query one or more computer databases maintained by the online store provider and fetching the information about the said selected product item such as the product item description, selling price, brand name, manufacturer name, and the URL of the product's photographic image; the said server computer transmitting the product item information thus obtained to the user's client device over the internet communication session that was setup by the user's client device as described in claim c12.

[c14] The method of claim c13, wherein the received information at the user's client device consisting of the product information items transmitted by the server computer as described in claim c13, further comprising the step of: the user's client device displaying to the user the product information items as received from the server computer and determined as described in claim c13, and allowing

the user to edit or modify any of the said product information items, the said display and modification of the said information items performed by using the computer graphical interface within the internet browser context.

[c15] The method of claim c14, further comprising the step of querying the user for the quantity information to determine the number of pieces of the selected product item as desired by the user, the said querying performed by using the computer graphical interface within the internet browser context to prompt the user to provide the necessary quantity information and to receive the required information from the user.

[c16] The method of claim c15, further comprising the step of transmitting the product information items determined as described in claim c14, and the quantity information determined as described in claim c15 and the said user's registry account information, determined as determined in claims c3 and c5, to a server computer connected to one or more computer databases and hosted by the registry service provider.

[c17] The method of claim c16, wherein the received information at the said server computer consisting of the user's registry account information, the selected product item description information and the selected product's quan-

tity information, further comprising the steps of: the said server computer using the received registry account information to determine and retrieve the user specific product item list from one or more computer databases; adding the received product item information to the said user specific product item list; and retrievably storing the updated product item list in one or more computer databases.